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538 Many of the later sjaïr deal with historical subjects of recent times, for example: the Sjaïr përang Batawih = history of the capture of Batavia by the British in 1811; Sjaïr përang Bali or Sjaïr Djendral Michlis (Michiels), a poem about the third Bali expedition and the death of General Michiels; Sjaïr Kompëni wolanda bërperang dengan Tjina, a poem about the struggle between the Company and the Chinese and the murder of the Chinese under Governor General Valckenier.

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779 We now come to the prose, which includes, first, religious writings and works on Mohammedan jurisprudence. All these come from the Arabic and were written by Mohammedan priests or under their influence. They consist in large part of explanations of the Koran, teachings on the dogma and rites of Islam, and rhetorical prescriptions and adaptations of writings of Arabian jurists. Many of them were drawn up in Atjeh. The Saribu masail or masaila, the thousand questions, is one of the foremost among them. This work is known throughout the Mohammedan world. It contains a thousand questions that were submitted by a learned Jew, Abd'oellah bin Saïam, to Mohammed, who answered them with the help of the angel Gabriel, whereupon Abd'oellah and his followers embraced Islam. The questions covered all kinds of subjects, such as religion, geography, astronomy, etc., actually a hodgepodge of all kinds of nonsense. The work is known throughout the Indies, and there is a translation in Buginese. It seems to have been translated originally from the Persian. Another work of some reputation is the Mirror

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779] of the Studious, miratu'l-tollab. It also bears a Malayan title, 671 Tjermin segala marika jang mënuntut elmu faqih pada 795 mëmudahkan segala hukum sjai ➤ Allah, which is translated as "Mirror for those who want to study jurisprudence [163] in order to facilitate the administration of justice according to the Law of God." This should adequately show its content. It, too, was written by a priest on Atjeh and was compiled by him according to the abridged writings of the Shafiitic sect.